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TRUMP ANSWERS QUESTIONS FOR 7 HRS IN NEW YORK FRAUD LAWSUIT

The former US president on Friday deposed for the second time in a legal battle with New York's attorney general over his firm's business practices

DON CHOOSES NOT TO INVOKE 5TH AMENDMENT

In doing so, Donald Trump reversed his earlier decision to invoke his Fifth Amendment protection against self-incrimination. On Friday, he met with Attorney General Letitia James' (left pic) lawyers, who sued him last year. The lawsuit claims Trump and his family misled banks and associates by giving false information about his net worth and the value of his hotels and golf courses

'EX-PREZ MANIPULATED PROPERTY VALUES'

- The lawsuit claims Trump, three of his adult children and others took part in a decade-long scheme to manipulate property values and his net worth to obtain favourable loans, and tax and insurance benefits
- The Fifth Amendment protects criminal defendants from having to testify if they may incriminate themselves through the testimony | P9

400

NUMBER OF TIMES DONALD TRUMP HAS INVOKED THE FIFTH AMENDMENT SO FAR

CHENNAI • MADURAI • VIJAYAWADA • BENGALURU • KOCHI • HYDERABAD • VISAKHAPATNAM • COIMBATORE • KOZHIKODE • THIRUVANANTHAPURAM • BELAGAVI • BHUBANESWAR • SHIVAMOGGA • MANGALURU • TIRUPATI • TIRUCHY • TIRUNELVELI • SAMBALPUR • HUBBALLI • DHARMAPURI • KOTTAYAM • KANNUR • VILLUPURAM • KOLLAM • TADEPALLIGUDEM • NAGAPATTINAM • THRISSUR • KALABURAGI

CBI summons Kejriwal in Delhi's excise policy scam

Delhi CM told to appear on Sunday; AAP terms it a conspiracy

AMIT MUKHERJEE @ New Delhi

DELHI Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal was on Friday summoned by the CBI in connection with the ongoing Delhi excise policy scam that allegedly resulted in a whopping ₹2,873 crore loss to the exchequer.

He was asked to appear at the CBI headquarters at Lodhi Road around 11 am on Sunday. His Aam Aadmi Party (AAP), while calling it a conspiracy, said he will appear before the Central probe agency. "This notice is a conspiracy to arrest Kejriwal. The BJP will neither be able to silence the AAP nor Kejriwal," AAP leader Sanjay Singh said.

The scam involves reworking the excise policy to create a cartel at the wholesale level to benefit a group of liquor traders for windfall gains and kickbacks. The revised policy was later scrapped.

Kejriwal's name does not figure in the CBI chargesheet, but the Directorate of Enforcement mentioned it for the first time in its second chargesheet filed on January 6. The money trail shows he allegedly used AAP communications incharge Vijay Nair as the go-between for the kickbacks.

The ED chargesheet claimed Kejriwal, during one of his video calls with prime accused Sameer Mahendru, asked him to trust Nair, assuring he was is his (Kejriwal's) boy. It sought to establish Kejriwal's abetment to the crime, saying "Vijay Nair who orchestrated this entire scam is not an ordinary worker of the AAP but a close associate of CM Arvind Kejriwal and was closely interacting with Dy CM for the excise policy-related matters."

The ED's allegations against Kejriwal were based on various statements recorded during the investigation, including that of C Arvind, a DANICS officer and secretary to Manish Sisodia, the then deputy chief minister who held the excise portfolio.

Seven accused

The CBI's chargesheet names 7 accused — Vijay Nair, Boinpally, Arun R Pillai, Mootha Gautham, Sameer Mahendru, Kuldeep Singh and Narender

Big jolt to BJP before polls, ex-DyCM Savadi joins Cong

DEVARAJ B HIREHALLI @ Bengaluru

IN what is considered to be the biggest jolt to BJP ahead of the Karnataka Assembly elections, former deputy chief minister and senior BJP leader Laxman Sangappa Savadi joined Congress here on Friday.

Savadi's decision came after BJP denied him a ticket to contest from the Athani Assembly constituency. Political observers are surprised by his decision as he was a prominent leader in BJP and was made to campaign extensively during the bypolls in Karnataka and also the Maharashtra Assembly elections. The ticket denial to this influential Ganiga Lingayat leader from Belagavi was also a puzzle as he had a good rapport with BJP National General Secretary (Organisation) BL Santhosh, who he regarded as his 'guru'.

Savadi said, "It was all a conspiracy in the party to groom a yuvaraja as a chief ministerial candidate", obliquely referring to former chief minister BS Yediyurappa, who was said to be responsible for the party denying Savadi the ticket. "If he (Yediyurappa) terms former CM HD Kumaraswamy refusing to hand him over power in the coalition government in 2007, then I too was betrayed by the party that denied me the ticket. Yediyurappa, Jagadish Shettar and KS Eshwarappa promised me the Athani ticket in 2019," he said while joining Congress.

He resigned from the primary membership of the party and also quit as MLC on Friday after holding deliberations with AICC General Secretary Randeep Singh Surjewala, Congress Legislature Party leader Siddaramaiah and KPCC president DK Shivakumar.

Former deputy CM and BJP leader Laxman Savadi gestures after joining Congress, as KPCC president DK Shivakumar looks on, in Bengaluru on Friday | MAHARAJA GADEKAL

"It is a historic day that rewrites the political equation to build and rebuild Brand Karnataka. It is a day of new beginnings. Through his contribution as a legislator, DCM and MLC, Savadi built a reputation for himself. The decision was not easy and I will commend his bravery," Surjewala said.

Earlier, Siddaramaiah said Savadi will be given the ticket to contest from Athani. In the 2018 Assembly polls, Savadi lost to Mahesh Kumatalli, who is the BJP candidate from the constituency this time. Kumatalli, who was then in Congress, was among 17 Congress and JDS MLAs who brought down the Congress-JDS alliance government led by then CM Kumaraswamy and helped BJP form the government in 2019. Along with Savadi, former minister Shashikanth Naik and Banajiga Veerashaiva Lingayat community leader Shankargouda too joined Congress. P4

SOMASHEKAR RESIGNS FROM BJP

B Somashekar, who was denied a BJP ticket from Malavalli, resigned from the party on Ambedkar Jayanti on Friday, alleging that he chose the day to show that BJP is "unfair to Scheduled Castes". Somashekar said he felt "discriminated against" within BJP because of rampant casteism. He said he was made a scapegoat because of his poor showing in Malavalli in 2018, but that was due to a surreptitious understanding between JDS and some elements within BJP. P4

Siddaramaiah may have dropped Kolar plan

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

CONGRESS Legislature Party leader Siddaramaiah, who was nursing the idea of contesting from Kolar apart from his pocket borough Varuna, may give up Kolar. He took the decision after meeting his well-wishers, including KJ George and Byrati Suresh, who suggested that Varuna is a safe seat for him and it is not necessary to contest from Kolar, sources close to Siddaramaiah said. He was also told that contesting from two seats is counterproductive and would send a wrong message to the electorate. P4

No ticket for Bhavani, JDS worker gets Hassan

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru/Hassan

THE JDS announced its second list of 50 candidates for the Assembly polls on Friday. Party worker Swaroop Prakash was announced as the candidate from the Hassan constituency, where former minister HD Revanna was firm on fielding his wife, Bhavani. Interestingly, Revanna announced Prakash's name, saying all he wants is to see his brother HD Kumaraswamy as the next CM. Meanwhile, JDS supremo HD Deve Gowda assured Bhavani a ticket from the Chamaraja seat in Mysuru. P4

PM to address Buddhist meet; Dalai a day later?

YESHI SELI @ New Delhi

PRIME Minister Narendra Modi will address the two-day Global Buddhist Summit in Delhi next week, where top Buddhist scholars and practitioners from across the globe will participate. The Dalai Lama is expected to attend the event on the second day, but there is no confirmation yet on his participation.

The Summit will be held on April 20 and 21 and will focus on the Buddhist way of dealing with the challenges the world faces today.

There is a lot of curiosity around the Dalai Lama's participation, especially after the controversy around a video showing his interaction with a boy.

Sources said the Dalai Lama's participation will be subject to his health condition. "Since he is senior in age, his mobility is restricted and he needs assistance. There is a lot of security around him. It is for these reasons that a confirmation on his attendance hasn't been received yet," said sources.

Among the keynote speakers of the Summit is Prof Robert Thurman, a leading American expert on Buddhism. He was awarded the Padma Shri in 2020 for his work on discovering India's ancient Buddhist heritage.

Meanwhile, the Tibetian Parliament in exile on Friday alleged that China is behind the viral video and vilification campaign against the Dalai Lama.

Rao: Criminals pawns in hands of netas, cops

BALA CHAUHAN @ Bengaluru

A new entrant, not only to his party but also to politics, the former Indian Police Service (IPS) officer and Bengaluru city police commissioner Bhaskar Rao said that crime is closely linked to "poverty, ignorance and lack of opportunities," while speaking about Chamarajpet - the constituency from where the BJP has fielded him against Congress MLA BZ Zameer Ahmed Khan. The latter has represented the constituency four times since 2005.

In police records, Chamarajpet is considered the underbelly of crime with history sheeter 'Silent' Sunil, who was aspiring to be the BJP candidate from the constituency, leading a protest after he was cold shouldered by the saffron party.

Rao had stirred a controversy when he recently said he was open to the idea of seeking Sunil's support.

"It is bourgeois thinking to label people as rowdies. History sheeters are products of their environment and go on to become pawns in the hands of politicians and police. One must see the state of Chamarajpet. There is poverty, squalor, filth, garbage, lack of education and health opportunities. The drains are clogged and children suffer from malnutrition. In the absence of education and opportunities, it is natural that some people resort to crime and graduate to become history sheeters," said the former top cop-turned-politician. He explained how first-time offenders become hardened rowdies, and are "beholden" to politicians and police for 'help' received.

CONTINUED ON: P2

TALKING HEADS

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Congress leaders Mallikarjun Kharge and Sonia Gandhi and NCP founder Sharad Pawar during the birth anniversary celebrations of Dr B R Ambedkar, at Parliament House complex, in New Delhi on Friday | PTI

EXPRESS READ

11, including 5 children, lose lives in 2 separate road mishaps

TUMAKURU/KODAGU: Eleven people lost their lives in two separate road accidents on Friday. In the first case, a private bus bound for Tumakuru ploughed through the median on NH-48 near Hirehalli, and rammed an SUV coming in the opposite direction, killing five persons, including two children. In another accident, on the Kodagu-Dakshina Kannada border, an eight-month-old infant, two children and three adults were killed in an accident on Friday evening. The family was travelling in a car from Kodagu to Sri Kukke Subramanya Temple, when the vehicle collided with a KSRTC Bus on NH275 near Sampaje. P3

Tackling garbage: All vehicles must now pay to enter Nagarahole

MADIKERI: Not just inter-state, now even intra- and inter-district vehicles, will have to pay an entry fee at the forest gates of Nagarahole in Kodagu. The forest department took this step to put an end to rampant dumping of garbage and littering in forest areas in the district. Kodagu Chief Conservator of Forests Murthy BNN pointed out that it had become a herculean task for the department to control littering and dumping of garbage on forest fringes. P5

MOVIE MAGIC

After 33 years, film posters reappear in Srinagar

FAYAZ WANI @ Srinagar

MOVIE posters defacing public property are an eyesore across the country, but in Srinagar they are a novelty. A whole generation in J&K didn't get to experience them since the outbreak of militancy in 1990.

Poster culture made a comeback here with Hindi film *Bholaa* and immediately became a talking point. They can be seen on Boulevard Road on Dal Lake, near the Tourist Reception Centre, and other areas in uptown Srinagar. Boulevard Road is a beehive of tourist activity. *Bholaa* is being screened at the INOX multiplex, which was opened in September last, bringing cinema back to Kashmir after 33 years.

Javed Ahmed, who is pursuing his post graduation from the University of Kashmir, said it is for the first time in his life that he has seen movie posters in Kashmir. "Although I am not a big movie lover, posters will help people get updates on the movies being screened at the multiplex. It can also draw tourists," he opined.

Movie posters back in Srinagar after over 30 years | ZAHOOR PUNJABI

A tourist who did not want to be identified, remarked that the posters suggest the Valley too, has movie lovers. "During our earlier visits here, we used to wonder how people spent their spare time without cinema," he said.

Abdul Aziz, a senior citizen, was nostalgic about the reappearance of the posters after 33 years. "Before the eruption of militancy, big movie posters of actors used to be plastered across the walls," he recalled.

The INOX multiplex, owned by prominent Kashmiri Pandit Vijay Dhar, has three movie halls with a seating capacity of 522. It is located at the highly secure Shivpora area of uptown Srinagar. In 1999, an abortive attempt was made to reopen cinema theatres.

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at
LBSIM Auditorium

Chief Guest
Mr C.P. Gurnani
Managing Director & CEO
Tech Mahindra

will deliver the Convocation Address.

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